

## **Position Statement Concurrent Therapy**

Patients with cardiopulmonary diseases need access to safe, cost-effective care. Respiratory Therapists provide care that can improve patient outcomes and reduce morbidity, mortality and costs. In respiratory therapy, concurrent therapy occurs when one therapist administers treatments utilizing small volume nebulizers, metered dose inhalers, or intermittent positive pressure treatments to multiple patients simultaneously.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO) cites concurrent therapy as a problem. According to JCAHO, if concurrent therapy is to be considered there must be a clear indication of it and a policy and procedure that governs its application. Policies for the administration of concurrent therapy need to include consideration of the patients location within the facility, assessment for appropriateness (including frequency) of the order by a therapist, patient's cognitive status, understanding of therapeutic goals, coordination, tolerance of the therapy, attitude, and ability to cooperate with the therapy.

The Tennessee Board of Respiratory Care discourages the use of concurrent therapy. Patient safety is the primary reason for respiratory therapists not to deliver care via concurrent therapy without a thorough patient assessment. Indiscriminate use of concurrent therapy may lead to declines in quality and may jeopardize patient safety.

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